

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING JOSEPH WILLIAM WEST BERRIGAN FOR ACHIEVING THE RANK OF EAGLE SCOUT

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Joseph William West Berrigan, a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 9, and in earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Joseph has been very active with his troop, participating in many Scout activities. Over the many years Joseph has been involved with Scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Joseph William West Berrigan for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

HONORING JACK MICHAELS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA, NORTHWEST CHAPTER

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to honor an extraordinary individual from my district who is a true American hero, Jack Michaels. He is an ordinary man with an extraordinary story. Unless you are a friend or a family member you may not recognize his face, or have ever heard his name. Indeed, there are millions of Americans like him—Americans who have sacrificed so much for our country and do not receive nearly enough recognition in return for their service. Let me introduce you to one of many forgotten warriors.

Jack Michaels flew an assault helicopter in Vietnam that was shot down in 1970. His copilot was killed and Jack was left in a wheelchair for life. For his sacrifice he received a Distinguished Flying Cross, Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart.

From that point on, he became determined to advocate for the rights of disabled veterans. His own experiences inspired him to help launch the Northwest Chapter of the Paralyzed Vets of America. Though it began with only 10 members, it has grown into a strong organization with over 400 members. The national PVA director calls him the backbone and guiding light of the chapter. Through his support, the Northwest Chapter has evolved into a strong advocate for veterans.

To illustrate his commitment, before the Northwest Chapter was even a part of the national PVA, he was instrumental in lobbying with the Washington Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities to get the King County Metro bus system to buy buses that would allow people in wheelchairs to ride. Before his work on this issue, no bus in King County was equipped to take a person in a wheelchair. This change has dramatically improved the lives of many by giving them the power of mobility. Impressively, Washington State's version of the Americans with Disabilities Act is actually stronger than the Federal version as a result of Jack's efforts. Jack has also worked tirelessly on a range of other issues affecting disabled veterans.

Now, 30 years after Jack Michaels helped launch the Northwest Chapter of the PVA, Jack is retiring as the chapter's executive director. Despite his upcoming retirement, he still plans to continue his battle for disabled veterans and will continue his work as a volunteer for the chapter he has served for so many years. Jack Michaels made a sacrifice for his country, and in the following years has continued to give still more. Over the years he has made his local and national community a better place by fighting for the rights of his fellow veterans. He deserves our utmost respect, admiration, and commendation for his achievements. I thank him for continuing to fight for liberty at home, and for volunteering to improve daily life for his fellow veterans, knowing all too well the sacrifices they have made.

TRIBUTE TO DON ORGAN

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Don Organ, my old friend and advisor, of Marin County, California, who died June 21, 2006, at the age of 77. Don advised me on my first congressional campaign in 1992 and continued to be a valued supporter through the ensuing years.

Don's career in politics evolved after he retired from a 27-year career managing nonprofit organizations, mostly in the public health field. After my 1992 campaign, he went on to develop a political consulting business with his wife Doris that focused primarily on Democrats and women candidates. He ran BARBARA BOXER's "Be a Boxer" campaign as well as efforts for local candidates such as Marin Assessor Joan Thayer, Judge Vernon Smith, Community College Trustees Eva Long and Greg Brockbank, and City Council Members Paul Cohen, Barbara Heller, and Carole Dillon-Knutson.

Born in Minneapolis, Don was raised in Los Angeles and graduated from Pomona College. After serving in the Korean war, he studied education at UC Berkeley and taught high

school for a short time before entering the nonprofit world. With his wife Doris and his two sons, he moved around the country to pursue this work, and the family lived in Wyoming, Chicago, Washington, DC, Birmingham, and Kansas City, before settling in Fairfax in Marin County in 1987.

Don soon joined the Marin Democratic Central Committee, ran unsuccessfully for the Marin Community College Board, and rapidly became a political fixture in the county. He was an active member of the National Women's Political Caucus in Marin where his support was so valued that he was the only male included in their 2006 Movers and Doers Calendar.

That first unsuccessful campaign for College Board is fondly recalled by Don's son Kris: He recruited my brother Larry and me to walk precincts with him, which I thought was pretty bold of him, as he and Mom had just moved to Marin County the year before. Larry and I were the established names in Contra Costa County.

We handed out a piece of literature Dad had put together stating his goals for the College, giving his background and including a photograph. We walked a Novato precinct, and a voter said to him, "Oh, I'm glad I met you in person. You look fat in this picture, but you're not fat. Fat people should never get elected, because they're lazy. But, I'll vote for you." Dad replied with his broad smile, "Well, I'm glad we met too. All this precinct walking has been good for me." Then, he told his boys, "That's how important a good picture is!" He came in last for the College Board, but I think those lessons made a difference in handling other candidates whose pictures were always the best.

Don is survived by Doris, his wife of almost 52 years, and two sons, Kris Organ, Executive Director of Service Employees International Union Local 949 and his daughter Serena; and Larry Organ, civil rights attorney, his wife Susan and 3 daughters, Robyn, Meg, and Jane, all of whom live in Marin County.

Mr. Speaker, Don Organ enriched Marin with his work and his support of many candidates, both men and women, who are leaders in the community. His family has asked that we "keep his memory" in our hearts. I will certainly do that as I mourn the loss of this friend and colleague whom I valued as an ally in my endeavors on behalf of California's Sixth District.

SILVER STAR MEDAL PRESENTED TO DONALD F. FULTON

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing Major Donald F. Fulton, USAF Ret., a resident of Vacaville, California, who has been awarded the Silver Star

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Medal for extraordinary gallantry in action while on a combat mission. The incident took place on August 14, 1969 when Maj. Fulton was serving in the United States Air Force as a Forward Air Controller, FAC, while supporting classified combat operations in Laos during the Vietnam War. Approval was announced by the Department of the Air Force for the award of the Silver Star Medal, the nation's third highest award for valor, to Donald F. Fulton.

Don Fulton is a native of New York City, NY, and has lived in the Vacaville, CA, area since 1975. He graduated from Point Loma Nazarene University in 1965.

As a captain in the U.S. Air Force, he served as a FAC while assigned to Pleiku Air Base, Republic of Vietnam, with the 20th Tactical Air Support Squadron, TASS. On August 14, 1969, Captain Fulton was the pilot of a lightly armed observation aircraft (O-2) and was participating in aerial flight deep inside Laos in support of Military Assistance Command—Vietnam, Studies and Observation Group, MAC-V SOG, Command and Control Central (CCC). Operating under call sign Covey 538, Captain Fulton coordinated Tactical Air Support for an eight-man Special Operations Strategic Reconnaissance Team while it conducted Operation Sad Sam, a raid on a major North Vietnamese Army unit headquarters. Recon Team New York was subsequently heavily engaged by a North Vietnamese Infantry Regiment and was immobilized with casualties and surrounded at dusk in mountainous rain forest. With a low ceiling and heavy rain approaching, and no tactical air support immediately available, Captain Fulton, firing marking rockets and an M-16 rifle, made numerous aerobatic, treetop level attacks on the enemy forces. During these passes, he was subjected to heavy fire from small arms, 12.7mm heavy machine guns, rocket propelled grenades and 23mm and 37mm antiaircraft weapons, inflicting substantial battle damage to his aircraft. His actions forestalled enemy attacks on the besieged Recon Team, until tactical air support could arrive. Subsequently, Captain Fulton directed the air assets in attacking the enemy and in conducting a night extraction of the Reconnaissance Team during a heavy rainstorm, while his fuel level dropped to near empty.

In his recommendation for the award of the Silver Star to Major Fulton, Lieutenant Colonel Edward Wolcove, U.S. Army, Ret., stated that the "operation resulted in the discovery of a major enemy headquarters and nearby main force bivouacs and fortifications, which were subjected to aerial attack and subsequently ground attack by an exploitation force from CCC, whereby the enemy sustained heavy losses and was forced to abandon the complex. The Sad Sam operation and subsequent ground operation caused the enemy to reinforce security in its sanctuary area at the expense of main force units, and its order of battle in South Vietnam was decremented."

Major Donald Fulton is also the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Air Medal with eight Oak Leaf Clusters.

RECOGNIZING ALEXANDER LEWIS RICE

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to celebrate the birth of Alexander Lewis Rice. Alex was born on Flag Day, Wednesday, June 14, 2006, to his proud parents, Robert and Sarah Rice, of Chillicothe, Missouri. Alex entered the world at 9:33 p.m. at Liberty Hospital in Liberty, Missouri, weighing a healthy 6 lbs. 11 oz. and 19 inches long.

Alex also has proud grandparents, Lewis and Kathy Rice, of Maryville, Missouri, and Kevin and Sandy Coan, of Omaha, Nebraska, to spoil him. Alex is also the nephew of Sarah and Travis Woodward, of Bowie, Maryland, Nathaniel Rice, of Maryville, Missouri, Brian and Carie Costanzo of Lincoln, Nebraska, and Thomas and Elle Coan of Abilene, Texas.

I find it quite appropriate that Alex was born on such a patriotic holiday as Flag Day considering that his father was one of my first interns while I served in the Missouri State Senate. I see great things in Alex's future considering his parents' and grandparents' great emphasis on family values, public service and patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in celebrating the birth of Alexander Lewis Rice. I wish Alex the best life has to offer, and I am proud to now serve him in the United States Congress.

A TIME OF HOPE FOR NAGORNO-KARABAGH

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, this week I had the pleasure of meeting with Nagorno-Karabagh's Foreign Minister George Petrosian and National Assembly Speaker Ashot Ghulian. I have long supported the right of self-determination for the people of Nagorno-Karabagh and greatly admire the efforts of the people of this historically Armenian region to build democracy and a market economy in the face of hostility from Azerbaijan.

It is a time of hope for a resolution of the Nagorno-Karabagh conflict that has plagued the South Caucasus for 15 years.

The Armenian and Azeri leadership have, for several years, been negotiating to turn a ceasefire into a more durable peace. It is a process that has been long, tiring and frustrating. I applaud the persistence and commitment of the Nagorno-Karabagh authorities and the government of Armenia and I hope that all of their efforts are slowly, but surely, paying off.

In the last week, the new U.S. Co-Chairman of the OSCE Minsk Group Matthew Bryza announced the framework of an agreement that Armenian and Azeri political leaders will soon discuss in an effort to settle the conflict once and for all. In a statement that was issued by the U.S. embassy in Yerevan yesterday, the Minsk Group's American, French and Russian co-chairs said the proposal envisages a self-

determination referendum to be held in Karabagh after the redeployment of Armenian troops from Azerbaijani territories surrounding Karabagh.

I hope that this announcement will clear the way for a brighter future for the Karabagh people and for the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan. It is a sad consequence of the war that Armenia and Nagorno-Karabagh have been subjected to a cruel and illegal blockade by Turkey and Azerbaijan, a blockade that continues to undermine the prospects for peace.

Armenia and the government of Nagorno-Karabagh have persisted in looking for ways to ease regional tensions, but the Azeris have too often responded by walking away. It is also not helpful that Azerbaijan has persistently talked of a military build-up even as it ostensibly negotiates with the Karabagh and Armenia. Last December's desecration of Armenian khachars in Azerbaijan also poisoned the atmosphere surrounding the talks.

I am pleased that the Azeri hostility has not gone unnoticed by our government. Last Thursday, Deputy Assistant Secretary Bryza spoke to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. In response to a question about whether the conflict could resume, he said that it is from the Azeri side "where you most often hear those sorts of threats." And in light of the oil revenues, he went on to say that "It's really quite unhelpful make statements that imply that this increased wealth is going to lead to purchases of arms and military threats."

In my meeting with them, I told Foreign Minister Petrosian and Speaker Ghulian how much I admire their commitment to peace and their leadership. Too many families have lost loved ones as a result of this conflict. It has been far too long that displaced refugees have been homeless.

We seem to be at a real turning point in the history of the Caucasus region and I am proud that the United States is playing a significant role in the peace process.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GREAT LAKES WATER PROTECTION ACT

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 29, 2006

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with Congressman LIPINSKI to introduce the Great Lakes Water Protection Act. This bipartisan legislation would set a date certain to end sewage dumping in America's largest supply of fresh water, the Great Lakes. More than 27 million Americans depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water. We need to put a stop to the poisoning of our water supply. Cities along the Great Lakes must become environmental stewards of our country's most precious freshwater ecosystem.

The Great Lakes Water Protection Act gives cities until 2026 to build the full infrastructure needed to prevent sewage dumping into the Great Lakes. Those who violate EPA sewage dumping regulations after that federal deadline will be subject to fines up to \$100,000 for every day they are in violation. These fines will go back into State clean water funds. From there, the funds will be spent on wastewater treatment options, with a special focus on greener solutions such as habitat protection and wetland restoration.